

Takoma Park Committee on the Environment  
March 13, 2007

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

COE members:

Catherine Tunis

Albert Nunez

Jonathan Wrotny

Kea Woodruff

Public Works Director Daryl Brathwaite

David Hauck, chair of the Montgomery County chapter of the Sierra Club

Jane Powers, Takoma Park citizen

Hwei-Ling Greeney, Amherst, MA

Meeting called to order at 7:45 pm.

Daryl gave update on Margo Kabel's case against the decision of the Takoma Park Tree Commission. The circuit court in Rockville ruled in favor of the Commission.

Daryl also reported that new trucks from Ford can use only 5% biodiesel so this may affect the % biodiesel in fuel the City uses in vehicles. Pepco has stopped installing mercury vapor lights, which Takoma Park has been using in street lighting. Pepco will only install high-pressure sodium lights. However, the Maryland State legislature is currently hearing a bill that would allow municipalities to own their own streetlights.

Takoma Park will host an e-cycling event April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Library.

A contract has been awarded to install 2 rain gardens and a trench on Cleveland Avenue for \$30 K. A contract has also been awarded for updating the City's GIS system for stormwater infrastructure. Water quality testing will be done at outfalls.

Arborist will give his annual report at Council's March 26 meeting.

David Hauck, the chair of the Montgomery County chapter of the Sierra Club, is currently in the process of getting cities to sign on to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol. (Cool Cities Campaign) Sierra Club local volunteers can do work and national staff can provide specific resources, such as research and statistics about what other cities/regions are doing to meet the goals, if COE wants to work with Sierra Club on implementing proposals for the City.

Albert told David about the work COE did when writing the Climate Change Action Plan – information was gathered about all CO2 emissions and pollution contributed by drive-through commuters was very high and could not be controlled by the City. That report is available to the Sierra Club group if they are interested.

David thinks it would be beneficial to see the landlord/tenant affairs office involved in COE's planned EnergyStar workshop. The Sierra Club newsletter is published every other month and includes a listing of volunteer opportunities. David will advertise positions helping with COE EnergyStar workshop, rain barrel workshop, and for someone available to do research on the feasibility of planting trees on New Hampshire Avenue.

The City has not voted on the COE's recommendation to sign on to the Mayors' Climate Change Agreement yet. Daryl noted that City Departments have all had budgets set; it is a good time to outline proposals that include budget requests.

David is also working with Eric Kaufman in Rockville and Gaithersburg to conduct a greenhouse gas inventory. Gaithersburg recently signed the Mayors' Agreement and the City is working on an Action Plan. COE would be interested in working with Eric on updating this data for Takoma Park.

Related to the Mayors' Agreement, a Climate Action Handbook is available at [www.seattle.gov/climate/docs/ClimateActionHandbook.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/climate/docs/ClimateActionHandbook.pdf)

Takoma Park's Arbor Day Celebration will be held Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am until 2 pm. If anyone has new handouts, mail or email them to Catherine. COE members are needed to volunteer at the COE table for the event.

Kea will email David a list of tools needed for the rain barrel workshop so they can be included in the newsletter advertisement.

Kea will make flyers for the rain barrel workshop to be available at the Arbor Day Celebration. There was a discussion re the acquisition of barrels from Pepsi and where to get plumbing supplies. Kea prepared an article re the rain barrel workshop for the Newsletter. Catherine will send it to the editor. Catherine asked Daryl to provide a list of people registered for the workshop so we can check what type of downspout diverter hole they will need.

Catherine sent Jack's edited article re electronic recycling and an announcement, and also sent one re recycling florescent bulbs.

Catherine gave an update on the State mercury switch legislation. MDE is resisting somewhat, seemed to have not reviewed the legislation. Tom will propose allowing a voluntary program for 1 year, with the stipulation that if a 50% recovery rate is not met, the mandatory program will go into effect.

Kea will work on a newsletter article about the County Energy Rebate program.

The newsletter deadline is April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Kea will invite the citizen interested in starting a Recyclebank program, as well as the new Takoma Park council member, to COE's April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.